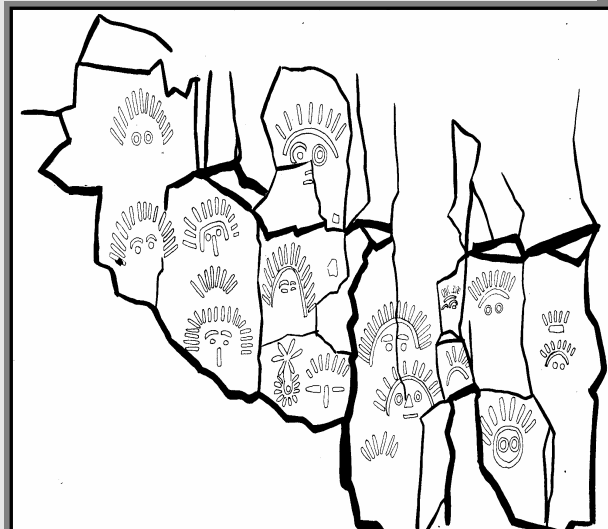
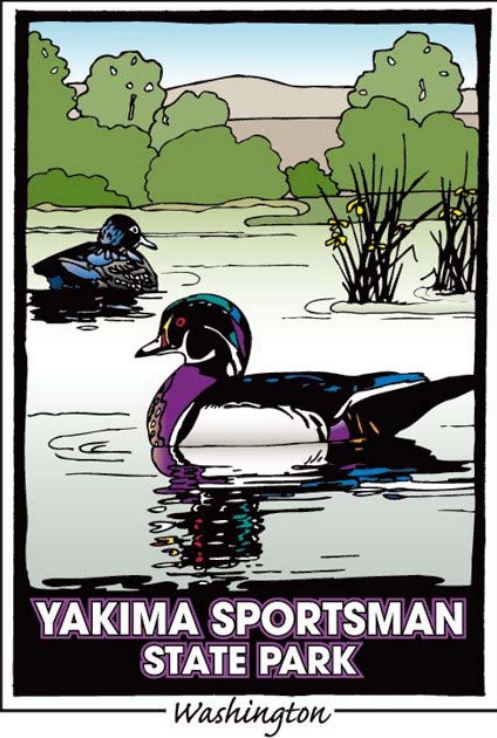


Yakima area state parks CAMP



Indian Rock Paintings State Park

February 1, 2007

PREFACE

Priority No. 1 in the Centennial 2013 Plan is “fixing up” the state parks and recreation services you enjoy today while keeping the future in mind. As State Parks moves to meet that commitment it pursues a vision that calls for all state parks to be “Premier destinations of uncommon quality . . . outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people.”

A starting point is a public planning process where we reach out to the community and customers. That public process is called a CAMP (Classification and Management Plan). A planning team has been assigned to complete this work. There will be several public workshops and other opportunities for you to participate. After the planning team has listened and considered the opportunities, it will recommend a plan to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

The plan will grow as we go through CAMP together, beginning with a discussion of the planning area and overview of the process.

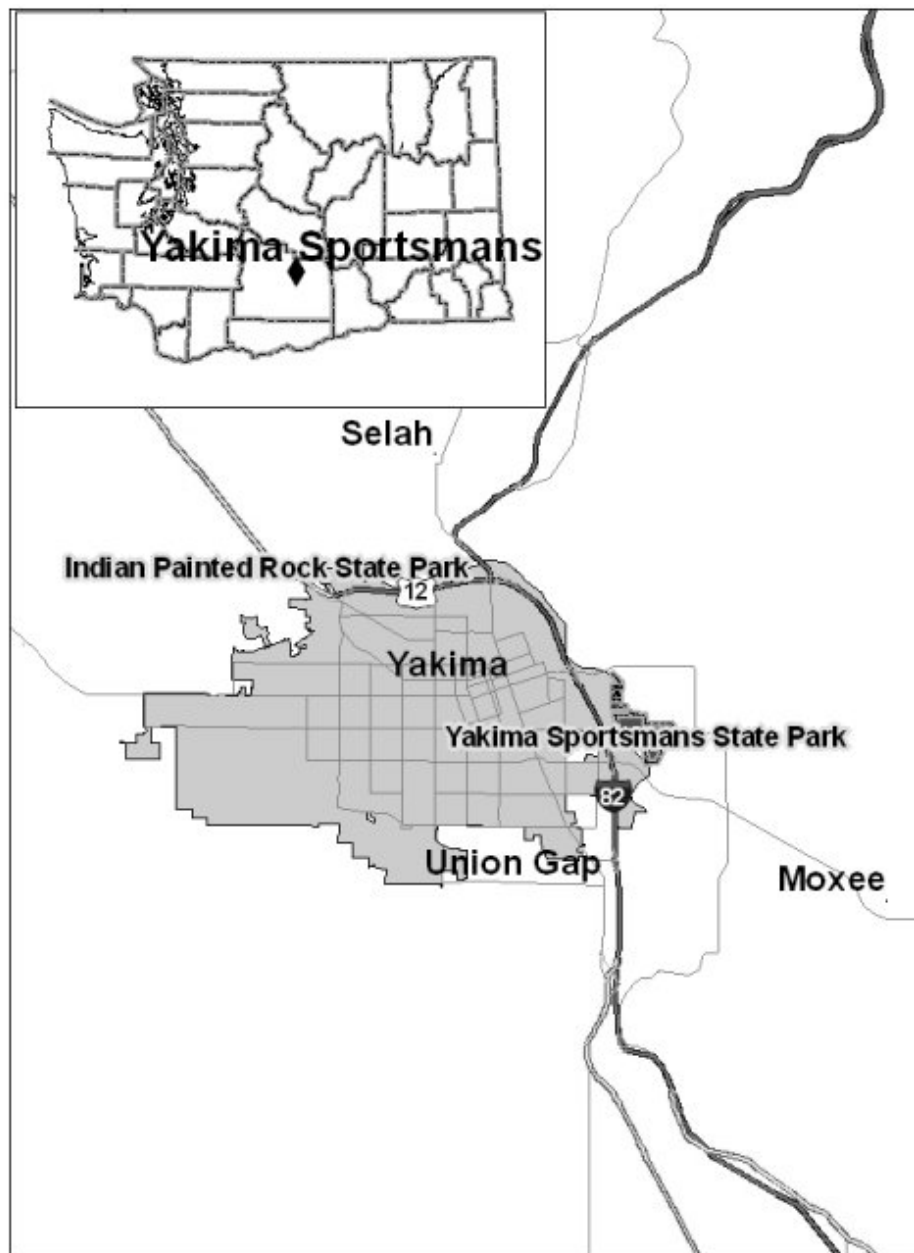


Figure 1: Location map

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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of 120 parks located throughout the state. The parks protect the best of Washington's natural and human heritage; provide access to the great outdoors and offer learning and inspiration.

The Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan in October, 2003, thereby creating a focus intended to energize and bring together the agency, state leadership and the public. Together we can work toward a parks system all can celebrate as it turns 100 years old and prepares for a second century of service.

Priority No. 1 in the Centennial 2013 Plan "Our Commitment" is fixing up the state parks and recreation services you enjoy today, while looking towards the future. We pursue a vision so that each park will be *Premier destinations of uncommon quality . . . outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people*. Our goal is have a land-use plan for all 120 parks by Centennial 2013.

It is now time for Yakima Sportsman and Indian Rock Paintings state parks to join the parks with land-use plans. We will develop our plan through a process that has been used by the Commission since 1996, called CAMP. CAMP is an acronym for Classification and Management Plan.

This plan will grow as we go forward together in the process, beginning with a discussion about the parks and an overview of the planning process in this document. It is an iterative process that continues until the Commission makes its policy decision and the plan is implemented.

The final plan will contain the planning team's recommendations for:

- Land classifications
- Long-term boundaries for the state parks
- A facilities concept plan

Information on each stage of the process can be found on State Parks' web page: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/> . Look for the Yakima area state parks hyperlink on the right-hand side of the page. Documents are available in hard copy format upon request.

THE PROCESS

The planning process goes through four stages and people are encouraged to participate in all stages. The process also reflects the standards set out in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and information collected through the planning effort will be used to satisfy SEPA requirements.

The planning process includes a series of public workshops and will end when the Commission provides its policy direction. The workshops are designed to be open-ended forums to allow the public to help develop the plan. Please note that the dates for public workshops are subject to change. If you provide your contact information, the planning team will provide you updates.

Stage One – Identify issues and concerns

The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park community and customer, what to change or save in the state park. This helps get a sense of the range and type of issues that need to be considered through the planning process.

Public workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, February 7 at the Yakima Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima, Washington 98901.

Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches

At this stage, the planning team suggests potential alternative approaches to address the various issues and concerns raised by people in stage one. No preferred alternative is established; rather this is an opportunity to understand the range of possibilities.

Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations

The best ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan in this stage. The plan includes recommendations for use and development of land, changes to property boundaries and ways to address issues raised during the planning process. Another important document completed at this stage is the SEPA checklist that describes environmental impacts of the recommendations (available for public review upon request).

Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations

At stage four, final adjustments are made to recommendations and submitted to the seven-member Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or to provide written comment.

Commission meeting: November 15, 2007 in Bellingham, Washington (tentative)

At first some people get frustrated with the open-endedness of the planning process. By the end, most people feel that they have been truly heard. It is the goal of the planning team to take all concerns into consideration and respond to issues that arise during the planning process. In the end we will get to the "blueprint" stage. Before then, however, it is very important that the community and customers have an opportunity to share ideas and help build the final plan. The goal here is a common vision about what the state parks should become.

Discussion of the long-term park boundary

Determining long-term park boundaries is an often misunderstood aspect of park planning. The purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs.

Including privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that use and condition of the property is important to the long-term potential of the state park. The agency and landowners might do one or some combination of the following actions together:

- Seek to formalize an agreement to advance a shared property management goal, such as screening of houses.
- Help establish a conservation easement to protect features that are important to the park visitor's experience and to the landowners.
- Accept a donation of all or part of a landowner's property. About 40% of the current Washington State Park system is made up of donated properties.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for private property, either in the area or somewhere else in the state.
- Purchase the private property.

Land classification

Within the long-term boundary, land classification is regulated by WAC 352-16-020, which reads:

State park areas are of state-wide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

- (1) **Recreational areas** are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.

- (2) **Resource recreation areas** are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) **Natural areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) **Heritage areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of state-wide or national significance.
- (5) **Natural forest areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
 - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
 - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
 - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) **Natural area preserves** are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

Facilities Concept Plans

Given the recommendation for a *long-term* boundary and land classification, the planning team will use comments from the community and customers to develop recommendations for uses and facilities that should be included. It is important to understand that, although schematic drawings (showing approximate locations of roads, trails, campgrounds, etc.) may be shown for discussion purposes, the Commission will only be asked to approve a conceptual plan. The exact size, location and configuration of facilities depend upon studies that would not be completed until later.

EXISTING CONTEXT

The Existing Context section describes some of the physical, operational, political and regulatory factors affecting the parks. The information can be technical and generally corresponds to a State Environmental Policy Act checklist. The section begins with a description of factors common to the parks, followed by a park specific discussion.

Please note that the information below describes the planning team's understanding at this stage of CAMP. The planning team expects to learn more and this section to grow as we proceed. Some information will come from the community and customers.

Yakima area state parks

Yakima Sportsman and Indian Rock Paintings state parks are located in Central Washington in Yakima County. The topics below describe some of the factors that the parks have in common.

Physical Factors

Land area: The following information comes from State Parks' land inventory:

Name	Acreage	Freshwater Shoreline (feet)
Yakima Sportsman State Park	247	19,116
Indian Rock Paintings State Park	.01	0

Air quality: Yakima is currently in attainment of air quality standards. Development projects must be coordinated with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority to reduce fine particle releases.

Transportation: Regional access to the Yakima area is by:

- Interstate highways 82 and 97
- U.S. highway 12
- State highways 22, 24, 821 and 410

Public transportation in the area is provided by Yakima Transit. No bus routes connect with the state parks.

There is no passenger rail. Air service is provided by the Yakima Air Terminal – McAllister Terminal.

Political Factors

Legislative District: The Yakima area state parks are within the 14th Legislative District, which is represented by:

14 th Legislative District		
Senator Jim Clements	Representative Mary Skinner	Representative Charles Ross

Jurisdiction: The parks are in the county. Yakima Sportsman State Park is within the Urban Growth Area for the City of Yakima.

Yakima County Board of Commissioners		
Commissioner Mike Leita District 1	Commissioner Ronald Gamache District 2	Commissioner Rand Elliott District 3

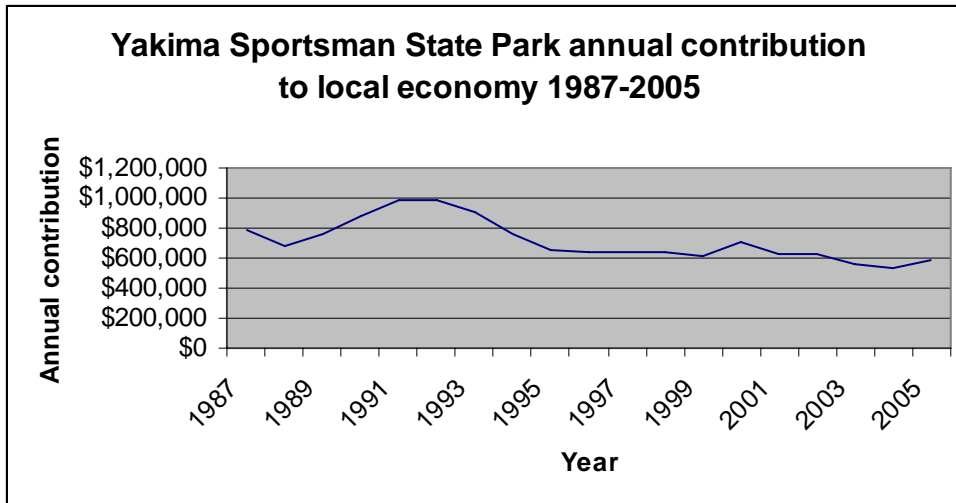
City of Yakima		
Mayor Dave Edler District 2	Assistant Mayor Neil McClure District 1	Council Member Ron Bonlender District 3
Council Member Susan Whitman District 4	Council Member Norm Johnson At large	Council Member Michael Cawley At large
Council Member Bill Lover At large		

Community factors

Contribution to local economies: The total amount of annual taxes (sales tax, local tax, Hotel/Motel tax) contributed by Yakima Sportsman State Park to the Department of Revenue from July 2003 to November 2006 was \$28,500. None came from Indian Rock Paintings State Park. Much of that money was returned to the local governments.

Based on overnight visitors¹, the estimated contribution to the local economy of Yakima County is \$13.6.8 million between 1987 and 2005. On average the state park contributes \$714 thousand per year.

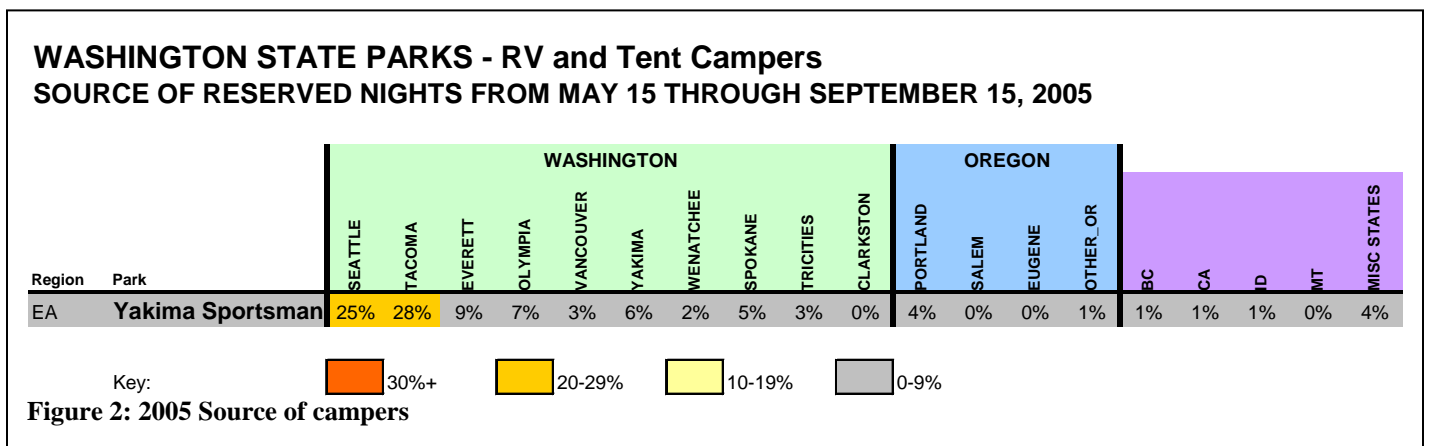
¹ The estimated daily spending per person for overnight state park campers is \$29.80. Dean Runyan and Associates, "Economic Impacts of Visitors to Washington State Parks, 2002.



It is important to note that State Parks are important to local economies in other ways, besides bringing overnight and day visitors to the area. Following are some examples:

- Employees usually live close to the parks and are part of local economies
- Materials for construction projects in the parks are often purchased locally
- Materials and supplies for normal operations are often purchased locally

Based on 2005 data, the majority of overnight visitors come from Seattle and Tacoma.



Park specific factors

The following section describes the physical, operational, political and regulatory factors affecting the individual parks within the South Beach Area. Ed Girard is the South Beach Area manager and his office is at Twin Harbors State Park.

Recreational factors

There are numerous recreational opportunities in the area, including sports fields, swimming pools, open space and indoor recreation space. A wonderful trail system exists and appears to be expanding.

Besides Yakima Sportsman State Park, at least three developed campgrounds provide direct access to Yakima, including:

- Circle H RV Ranch
- KOA Yakima
- Trailer Inn RV Park
- Sun Tides RV Park

In addition, the Yakama Nation RV Resort in Toppenish, Washington provides camping for visitors to the resort and access to the lower Yakima Valley. Mobile Home Parks in the area also provide some overnight RV accommodations.

Yakima Sportsman State Park (see appendix A for vicinity map)

Soils: Weirman sandy loam (channeled) with some pockets of Weirman gravelly fine sandy loam are the soils of the state park.

Water: The park is adjacent to the Yakima River. Type 1, 2 and 3 Palustrine wetlands are present, primarily forested. Wetlands are mostly adjacent to the river, although open water and intermittent are present on the eastern boundary. Much of the eastern part of the park is unaffected by wetlands.

Most of the park is within the 100 year flood plain. Flooding can be a problem when levee flood gates are open to reduce river flow.

Impervious surfaces including roofs, roads and campsite pads exist in the state park.

Water quality: No water studies have been found for this section of the Yakima River.

Plants: No plant association surveys have been completed. Information is needed about the status of the plant communities in the area.

The Natural Heritage Program² database administered by the Washington Department of Natural Resources does not list rare plant species populations and endangered ecosystems.

² Based on a January 2007 review.

Animals: The following animals are present at or near the park:

Mammals	Birds	Fish & Sea Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mule deer • Muskrats • Rabbits • Raccoons • Skunks • Weasels • Cougar • Coyote • Beaver • River otter • Porcupines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ducks • Eagles • Geese • Hawks • Herons • Hummingbirds • Jays • Owls • Pheasants • Quail • Woodpeckers • Over 147 other bird species identified by local Audubon Society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bass (small and large mouth) • Dolly varden/bull trout • Rainbow trout • Summer steelhead • Channel catfish • Fall and spring chinook salmon • Coho salmon

The Priority and Habitat Species (PHS) database administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lists the following threatened or endangered species within or near the park:

- Fall and spring chinook salmon
- Summer steelhead

The entire park is listed as a riparian zone in the PHS database.

Environmental health: The Facilities Site Atlas administered by the Washington Department of Ecology does not list potential hazardous materials sites nor wellhead protection zones near the park.

Noise: The park is affected by highway noise, somewhat offset by river noise. Customers complain about noise from the Yakima Speedway.

Land and shoreline use: The site is used as a park and adjacent properties are used for residences and light industry. The site has not been recently used for agriculture.

Facilities in park:

67 campsites (37 utility, 30 standard sites)	3 picnic shelters (one with outdoor fireplace)	Two residences
Shop/service building	2 bathrooms with showers	1 trailer dump station

A facilities condition assessment about five years ago rated the park structures as needing major upgrades. Some could be expected to fail before the Centennial 2013 celebration.

Zoning: The park is zoned as a Suburban Residential District under the Yakima Urban Area Zoning ordinances (Title 15A).

Comprehensive plan designation: Recreational Residential

Shoreline master program designation: About half of the shoreline is designated as Urban and the other half is Rural.

Housing: Two residences within the park.

Aesthetics: Structures are no taller than 25 to 30 feet (ground to the roof ridge). Exterior building materials generally are wood or cement-board (e.g. Hardiplank) construction.

Water views (ponds and rivers) area available from the state park.

Light and glare: Lights from cars, buildings and campfires illuminate the park at night.

Recreation: Camping, bird watching, trail hiking and interpretation, volleyball, horseshoes, playground activities, bird watching, and fishing may be enjoyed in the park.

Historical and cultural preservation: No sites are registered for the national or state local preservation registers.

A search is in progress for archaeological resources and there are registered archaeological sites near the park.

Public services: The park is served by the Yakima County Sheriff and Yakima County Fire District 4.

Utilities: The state park is connected to the Terrace Heights Sewer District. Water is provided by well and electricity supplied by Puget Power.

Business development: No concession operates at the park.

Nearby public land: Yakima County owns some property along the Yakima River levees near park property.

Indian Rock Paintings State Park (see appendix A for vicinity map)

Soils: Starbuck-Rock outcrop complex with 45-60 percent slopes.

Water: The Congdon Canal traverses the park. No wetlands are present.

The park is outside of the 100 year flood plain.

A small amount of impervious surface exists in the parks, mostly limited to parking area and stairs.

Plants: No plant association surveys have been completed.

The Natural Heritage Program does not list any species of concern nearby.

Animals: The following animals may be found at or near the parks:

Mammals	Birds	Fish & Sea Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coyotes• Mule deer• Rabbits• Raccoons• Skunks• Squirrels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crows or Ravens• Raptors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

The Priority and Habitat Species database lists the Cowiche Canyon Riparian Zone and urban natural open space nearby.

Environmental health: No wellhead protection zones exist near the park. The Department of Ecology database does not list potential hazardous facilities near the park.

Noise: The park is affected by highway noise.

Land and shoreline use: The site is used as a park and adjacent properties are used agriculture and light industry. The park property has not been used for agriculture.

Structures and facilities: No structures exist in the park.

Zoning: The park is zoned as Agricultural.

Comprehensive plan designation: Unknown at this time.

Shoreline master program designation: The park is designated as a Conservancy Area.

Housing: No residences exist within the park.

Aesthetics: No aesthetic issues have been identified.

Rural views areas are within the state park.

Light and glare: Lights from cars illuminate the park at night.

Recreation: Picnicking and cultural area interpretation exists.

Historical and cultural preservation: The park is an archaeological site.

Public services: The Sheriff and Fire District #5 support the park.

Utilities: No utilities exist.

Business development: There are no concessions operating at the park.

Nearby public state or federal land: None

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

This is the stage of the planning process where we gather community and customers about their hopes and concerns for the Yakima area state parks. In similar processes, State Parks has received hundreds of comments. The planning team is hoping to have that level of participation as well.

If you are interested and want to participate, you can do so in two ways.

1. You are invited to a workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at the Yakima Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima, Washington 98901.
2. You can send an e-mail with ideas for making improvements to or concerns about the Yakima area state parks. Please be specific about which park you are commenting upon. The planning team will record your ideas and review them. Comments received before February 28 will be reviewed by the planning team at its next meeting.

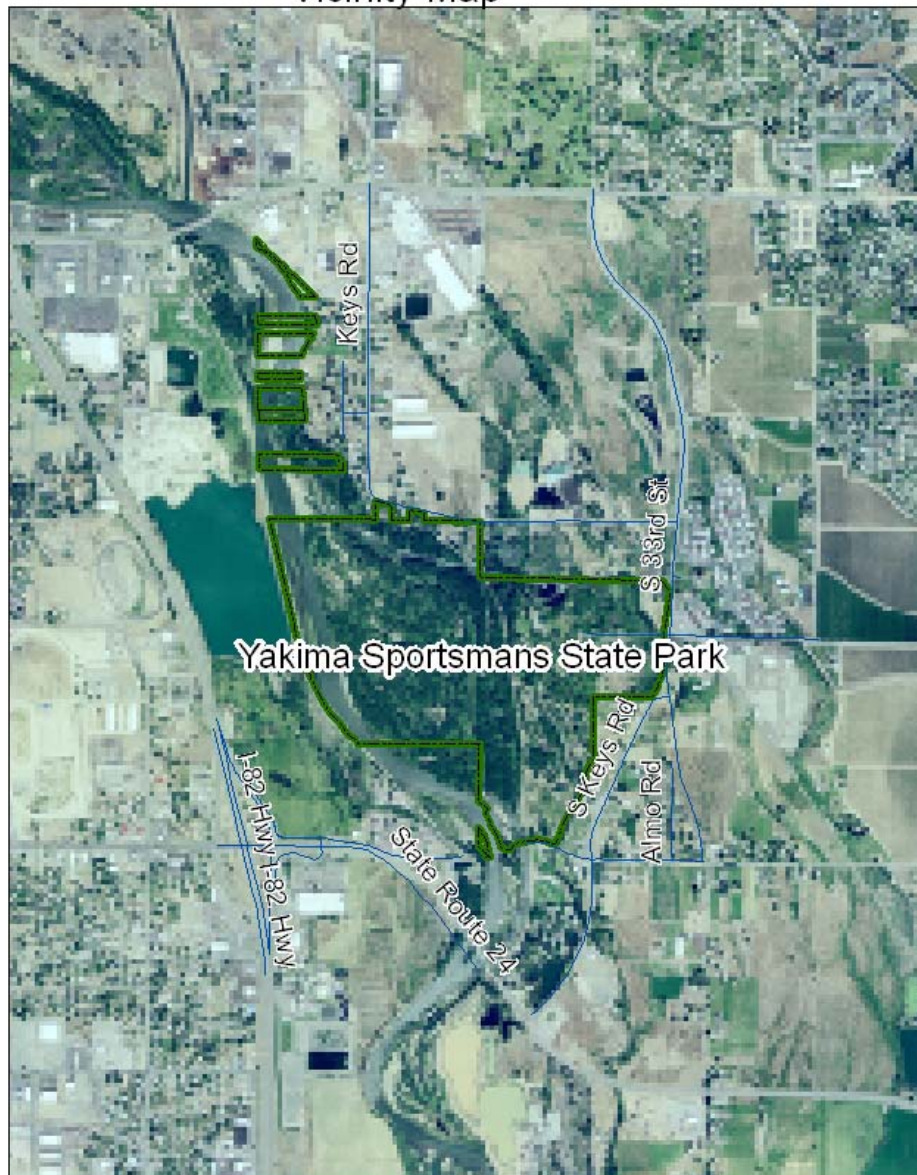
Thank you very much for helping us bring the Yakima area state parks to Centennial 2013 standards. Please direct written correspondence to Brian Hovis.

Brian Hovis, Parks Planner
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
Phone: (360) 902-8635
FAX: (360) 902-8666
TDD (360) 664-3133
E-mail: yakima.sportsman.planning@parks.wa.gov

Appendix A – Vicinity Maps

- **Yakima Sportsman State Park**
- **Indian Rock Paintings State Park**

Yakima Sportsman State Park Vicinity Map



Legend

 Yakima Sportsman State Park existing boundaries

February 1, 2007

0 950 1,900 3,800 Feet
NAD83 HARN Washington State Plane South



Data in these maps were compiled for cartographic purposes. Due to the variability of the source information, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and, therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

Indian Rock Paintings State Park Vicinity Map



Legend

 Indian Rock Paintings State Park existing boundary

February 1, 2007

0 550 1,100 2,200 Feet
NAD83 HARN Washington State Plane South



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